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Larry Sparks named interim chancellor

TAYLOR VANCE
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Larry Sparks will be the interim chancellor of the University of Mississippi, according to a press release from the state College Board.

“It is an honor to serve the University during this time of transition,” Sparks said in the statement. “I have had the privilege of spending the majority of my career at the University of Mississippi and look forward to serving with a strong team of leaders that will continue moving the university forward.”

Sparks, currently the university’s vice chancellor for administration and finance, will replace Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter in office as interim chancellor on Jan. 4, 2019.

Sparks’ designation as interim chancellor comes after Vitter’s resignation as the shortest-tenured Ole Miss chancellor since George Holmes retired from his position as the first head of school in 1849, a year after the university’s founding.

“Larry Sparks is an outstanding administrator and a lifelong Rebel who has been a leader at the University of Mississippi for more than two decades,” Vitter said in the press release. “He knows the Oxford, regional and Medical Center campuses as well as anyone, and his perspective, talent and leadership ability will serve the university well during this period. I am committed to supporting Larry (Sparks) in any way that I can.”

A native of Oxford, Sparks

Campus vigil honors lives lost to suicide



PHOTO: PARKER GALLOWAY

A crowd of more than two dozen students and faculty remembered loved ones affected by suicide during a vigil in the Circle on Thursday night.

MAKAYLA STEEDE
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Students and faculty came together in remembrance of those they have lost to suicide at the Survivors of Suicide Candlelight Vigil last night in the Circle.

Rebels for Suicide Prevention and the University Counseling Center planned the vigil, and the counseling center set up a table, passed out tea candles and shared pamphlets on suicide prevention. Attendees could pin a photo or card to a memory board in commemoration of anyone close to them who lost his or her life to suicide.

The vigil was held in honor of suicide attempt survivors and of those who have lost family or friends to suicide, as well as to increase awareness and erase the stigma surrounding suicide.

Graduate assistant Bianca Abney, a member of the counseling center’s Suicide Prevention program, opened the night.

“The purpose of this event is to come together as a community, so we can all remember the ones we have lost to suicide,” Abney said. “Our hope is to end the

stigma around mental health and know the warning signs around suicide like anxiety and depression.”

Rebels for Suicide Prevention president Elizabeth Long said suicide takes the lives of 44,000 Americans every year and is the tenth leading cause of death in America.

“These are statistics, but behind each statistic is a person. The purpose of tonight is to raise awareness and decrease the stigma, but most importantly, remember those we have lost to suicide and those who are suicide attempt survivors, like myself,” she said. “As suicide attempt survivors and survivors of suicide loss, it is our job to share the stories of those that never got to be told in hopes of saving someone else.”

Long is the survivor of a suicide attempt during her junior year of high school. She said after realizing there was not a student-led organization for suicide prevention, she worked to establish Rebels for Suicide Prevention in order to raise awareness about suicide on campus.

“I hope that we can end the stigma around mental health and start the conversation, and I want to let people know that they are not alone,” Long said.

Long urges anyone who is struggling with suicidal thoughts or who has lost a family member to suicide to reach out to a friend or a doctor and receive help.

Pam Smith, Ole Miss Student Union administrative coordinator and member of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, shared the story of losing her son, Scott, to suicide and explained that it encouraged her to speak out against suicide.

“I go around to speak to anyone and everybody at the schools to get them to understand that there are going to be things that happen in your life, but that’s not the reason to leave this world,” Smith said.

After Smith shared her story, students and faculty at the vigil lit tea candles and held a moment of silence to remember the people who lost their lives to suicide. As Andra Day’s “Rise Up” played, most stood silently while others cried.

Junior psychology major Emily Haupt said she was motivated to come to the vigil by her desire to join the Rebels for Suicide Prevention and honor her friend and uncle who she lost to suicide.

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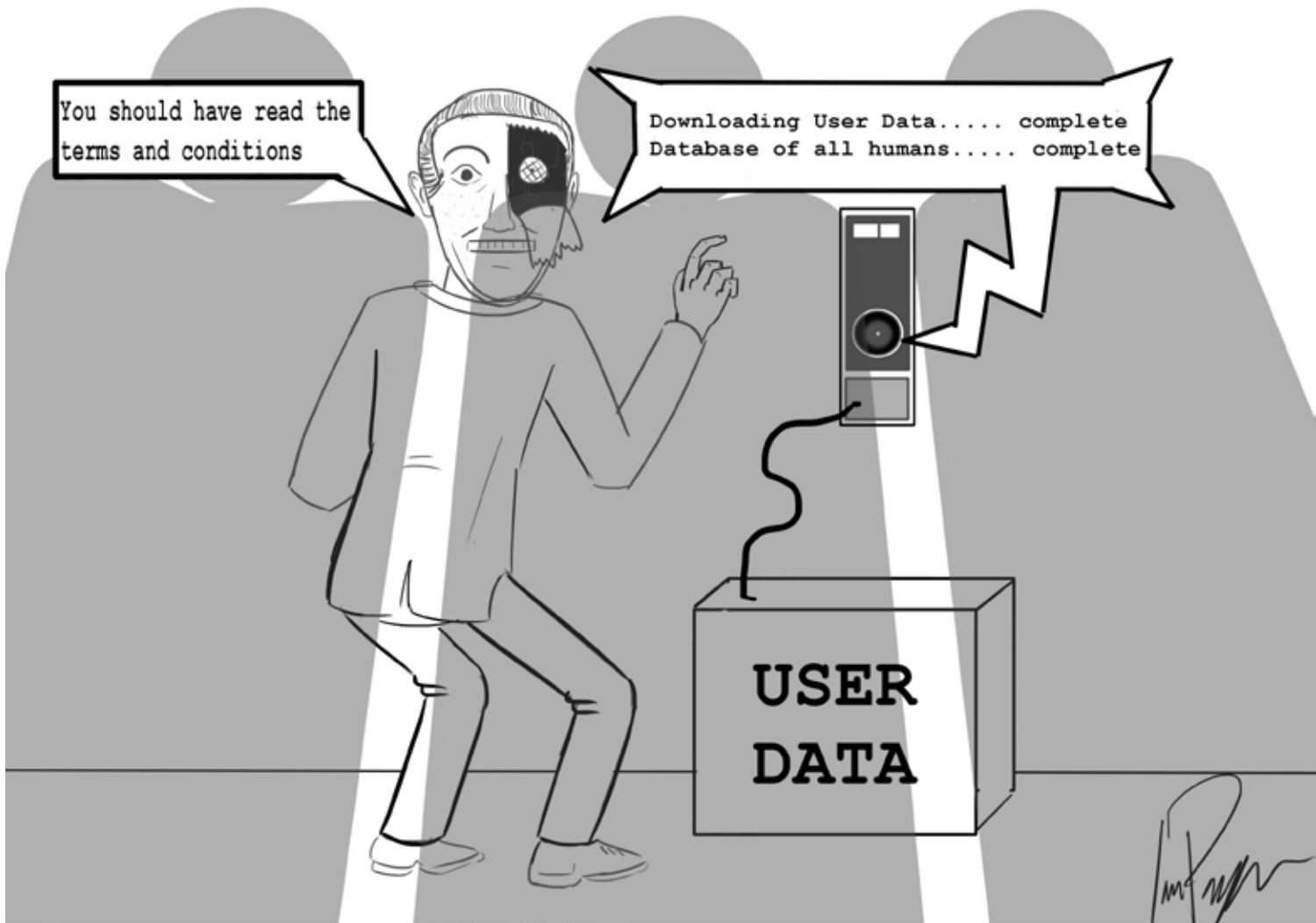
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Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg testifies before the House of Representatives (2018)



COLUMN

Panhellenic should adopt Theta Encore

ALYSSA MONCRIEF
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On Nov. 1, the Kappa Alpha Theta Grand Council announced that Ole Miss’ Epsilon Zeta chapter of Theta would be closing at the end of the fall semester. The reasons behind this sudden decision were “low membership numbers and discouraging recruitment efforts.” The chapter had experienced more than 17 visits from national representatives in the past two years regarding new membership, chapter obligations and financial issues, although there were no official signs that the chapter would be closing until it was

announced. Students campus-wide are saddened by the upcoming loss of such a longstanding sorority, its members and one of Greek life’s most beloved traditions, Theta Encore. Every year, Kappa Alpha Theta hosts a dance competition between each sorority’s newest pledge class in order to raise money for their national and local philanthropy, called CASA. This program provides court-appointed special advocates to children in foster care nationwide to ease their journey finding a home. This year, Theta Encore raised \$66,313 for CASA, only further proving how sub-

stantial and successful this fundraiser is. Although the Ole Miss chapter of Theta is closing, there is still an opportunity to keep Theta Encore alive by having College Panhellenic host the competition. For seventeen years, the fundraiser has brought pledge classes together and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for CASA. By keeping this tradition alive, Panhellenic can honor Theta Encore’s fond memories and continue to raise money for the philanthropy. Many schools host Greek-wide fundraisers similar to Theta Encore — such as Greek Sing at Arizona State,

where a similar dance competition takes place between all of the sororities and fraternities. These fundraisers raise thousands of dollars, attract people throughout the community to the campus and bring Greek organizations together. In addition to fundraising, this could provide an opportunity for Theta’s members and alumnae to stay involved with their philanthropy through competing, volunteering or attending the performances.

Alyssa Moncrief is a freshman political science and journalism major from Jackson.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Cindy Hyde-Smith: The audacity of white womanhood



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“How is the white man going to control the government?” asked James K. Vardaman in 1907. “If it is necessary, every Negro in the state will be lynched; it will be done to maintain white supremacy.”

“If he invited me to a public hanging, I’d be on the front row,”

said Cindy Hyde-Smith in 2018, to laughter and applause from her audience while campaigning last week.

Hyde-Smith’s comments underscore the audacity of white womanhood, a theme that played out nationwide as white women in many states overwhelmingly voted to elect right-wing, anti-choice racist men.

Hyde-Smith is the junior senator from the state which is known for the most lynchings in history. She is currently campaigning against a man who, if elected, would be the first African-American senator from Mississippi since Reconstruction. And she sees nothing inappropriate about her “joke.”

She’s not alone.

In 1922, Rebecca Latimer Felton of Georgia became the

first woman to serve in the Senate, though only for one day. She was a strident white supremacist who openly supported lynchings, once declaring that, “If it takes lynching to protect women’s dearest possession from drunken, ravening beasts, then I say lynch a thousand a week.”

Note the way Felton reduces women’s value to their private parts. In a press conference on Monday, announcing her endorsement by National Right to Life, Cindy Hyde-Smith very much did the same thing.

After reiterating a statement calling her comment “an exaggerated statement of regard”

and referring to those who see a “negative connotation” to her words as “ridiculous,” Hyde-Smith hid behind Governor Phil Bryant’s coattails as he went on an anti-choice rant.

Bryant cited a seemingly nonexistent Wikipedia page to claim that Hyde-Smith is much more “pro-life” than the black women he claims are responsible for “the genocide of 20 million African-American children.” Of course, Bryant’s refusal to expand Medicaid, support quality public education, create living-wage jobs or address the disparities in the maternal mortality rates of black and white

women are acts much closer to genocide than women simply making healthcare decisions.

Moreover, Mississippi has a history of actual genocide — involving sterilizing black women, including Fannie Lou Hamer — which Bryant doesn’t feel compelled to address. His “pro-life” posturing is actually about controlling women, not saving lives.

Meanwhile, Hyde-Smith has still failed to articulate just how enthusiastic attendance at public executions makes her “pro-life.”

Jaz Brisack is a senior general studies major from Oxford.

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Poet Hanif Abdurraqib visits The End of All Music

BLAKE ALSUP
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A crowd of around 35 people gathered in The End of All Music record store on Wednesday night to hear Hanif Abdurraqib read poems and have copies of his essay collection titled “They Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us” signed.

Abdurraqib, an Ohio native, noted that it was the one year anniversary of the book’s release and said a lot more people are interested in his private life now due to the personal narratives within the collection.

“I think the upside of the type of writing I do and the type of writing I aspire to do is that it creates a relational exchange,” Abdurraqib said. “But if there is a downside of that, it’s that it can blur the line between public and private in a way that’s very odd, but also somewhat welcome.”

He said he’s had more fruitful and exciting conversations about music than he’d ever imagined as a result of the book, which includes essays related to musicians ranging from Fall Out Boy to Migos to Carly Rae Jepsen and Nina Simone.

When indie book publisher Two Dollar Radio reached out

to Abdurraqib in 2016 about writing a collection of essays, he was initially uninterested but warmed up to the idea.

“I had this collection of work that was kind of asking questions around what it looks like to be a music fan in this era, and like music fandom that echoes through lots of years and involves lots of nuances,” Abdurraqib said. “And, it just felt like the right time for me to put it out.”

Abdurraqib said his career started out with him “writing a lot of bad music reviews.”

“People did not love those things because they would complain about them being too poetic, whatever that means, so then I decided to start writing poems,” Abdurraqib said. “And somewhere in between that, I found out how to bridge the gap between the two mediums and find out a language that works to articulate the passion about the artistic.”

Abdurraqib said he doesn’t like to shame people for what they don’t know but instead invite them to learn — so he writes from the standpoint of a fan.

“It’s more exciting to present a landscape where a person doesn’t feel ashamed for not knowing,” Abdurraqib said.



PHOTO: BLAKE ALSUP

Hanif Abdurraqib reads pieces of his work to attendees during a book signing at The End of All Music.

“I’m always curious and so I’m kind of writing from a standpoint of trying to spread that curiosity around really effectively.”

Poems he read at the event included “For the Dogs Who Barked at Me on the Sidewalks in Connecticut,” “It’s Not Like Nikola Tesla Knew All of Those People Were Going to Die” and several pieces from a series of poems with the same title “How

Can Black People Write About Flowers at a Time Like This.”

He also read selections from two books slated for release within the next year. In February 2019’s “Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest,” Abdurraqib relates his life and experiences to the group’s music. His second collection of poems, titled “A Fortune for Your Disaster,” will be released in October 2019.

Oxford is one of the final stops of the year on Abdurraqib’s tour to promote his book. His stop at The End of All Music in collaboration with Square Books was the first of three this week. He’s also appearing in Hattiesburg and Houston, Texas.

“I was like, ‘What a joy it would be to come to Oxford and start this whole journey off here,’” Abdurraqib said.

INTERIM *continued from page 1*

earned his bachelor’s degree in accountancy from the University of Mississippi and a master’s degree in business administration from Mississippi College. He has worked for the university since 1997 and has been the director of the university’s finances since 2006.

Shane Hooper, president of the board of trustees for the state College Board, said Sparks’ knowledge of finance makes him suited to serve as interim chancellor.

“He has a deep understanding of the issues facing public universities today and an even deeper understanding of Ole Miss,” Hooper said. “I have no doubt that the university will continue to excel under his leadership.”

Brice Noonan, chair of the faculty senate, said he has worked with Sparks on many committees and has “great respect” for his understanding of the inner workings of campus.

“I have no doubt that he will provide the stability in the Lyceum that our campus needs as we make this transition and look forward to working with him and the IHL as we search for the next Chancellor of the University of Mississippi,” Noonan said.

Associated Student Body



FILE PHOTO: XINYI SONG

Larry Sparks speaks at a town hall meeting in 2017.

President Elam Miller said he is excited to work with Sparks.

“He has been at the university for more than 20 years,

and it is my hope that he will continue to be an advocate for students in his new role,” Miller said.

VIGIL *continued from page 1*

“I was studying, I got the call that my friend, who I’ve known since kindergarten and was out in California living her dream of modeling, singing and dancing with a full scholarship to USC, had taken her life,” Haupt said. “Even now, it’s so unreal because you think there are very obvious signs, but a lot of the time it’s the people who seem the happiest.”

Haupt said she wants to fight back against the idea that suicide is a selfish action, and she hopes to work in psychology and mental health advocacy in order to help

erase the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.

“I’m here in her honor and to spread the word ... a month ago my uncle took his life, as well,” she said.

For students who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts or struggling to cope with loss from suicide, the counseling center is available to students free of cost. It is located in Lester Hall where students can walk in or call to schedule an appointment. The counseling center’s hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for students in crisis. There is also an on-call counselor available at all times through UPD.



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WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

Thanksgiving dinner edition

TREVOR DAVIS
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Thanksgiving Day is less than a week away, and while people take advantage of the break from school in many ways, Thanksgiving can mean reuniting with family and friends at home, watching football or celebrating with dinner plates overflowing with food.

This week, I sat down with several students eating at Rebel Market to talk about their plans for the upcoming break.

Holly Steen, a junior civil engineering major from West-son, ate fried chicken, mac and cheese, broccoli and sweet potatoes while she explained that she is using the break to visit her boyfriend and family back home. She said her family typically stays home and cooks the classic Thanksgiving foods: glazed turkey, fluffy mashed potatoes and traditional stuffing.

Not all Ole Miss students have the stereotypical American Thanksgiving, however.

I also talked to Bennett Mat-

son and Advent Travine, whose Thanksgiving traditions were pretty direct contrasts to one other and an effective comparison of a typical Thanksgiving to one that is a little less traditional.

Matson, a public policy leadership major from Memphis, was eating some cantaloupe, yogurt and granola. Although his family is travelling to New Orleans this year, the Matson family typically reunites in North Mississippi, watches football and participates in some fairly competitive games of cornhole every Thanksgiving.

"Everyone in my family is scattered all over the country at this point," said Matson. "So



we really only come together for the holidays — it's the best time to reconnect."

Travine, on the other hand, is a chemistry major from India. He was eating fried chicken and mac and cheese (which, I've come to learn, is quite a popu-

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PHOTO: TREVOR DAVIS

Students eat fried chicken at the Rebel Market before Thanksgiving.

lar combination on Thursdays in the Rebel Market). His family does not usually celebrate Thanksgiving because most of his relatives are still in India. Instead, Travine is planning on going to the beach with his parents and sister and eating at a nice restaurant on Thanksgiving Day.

“It’s usually just a big vacation for us,” Travine said. While Matson’s and Travine’s different Thanksgiving traditions are connected by visits with family, not everyone gets to spend Thanksgiving with their family.

For student-athletes like John McBride, Thanksgiving break is an opportunity to play sports without having to worry about class.

McBride, a freshman accounting major from Memphis, plays on the Ole Miss basketball team. He was eating a grilled chicken sandwich and fruit, a healthy option because he is trying to stay

in shape. He will spend his Thanksgiving break with the rest of the team, competing in a tournament in Destin.

Even though McBride won’t be at home with his biological family, he said he’ll be with a different sort of family.

“I’m super excited for it. I love those guys,” McBride said.



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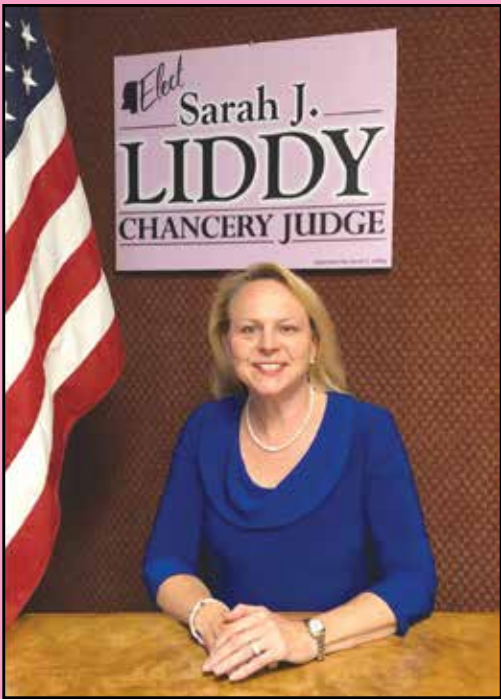
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‘Marvel’ of a man: Stan Lee was a hero

GABE MONTEZ
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

When I was growing up, my mom would persuade me to mind my manners, behave well and succeed in school with promises of a reward. Some of these rewards included ice cream sundaes after dinner, a weekend trip to the movies or, most often, a freshly packaged comic book.

When I’d get a new comic book, I would spend more time picking one out than I would actually reading it. The multitude of Marvel characters plastered on the covers were intoxicating to look at. With one glance at a Spider-Man issue, I could be transported to New York City where the Green Goblin was up to his old tricks. Another glance could throw me into an all-out mutant epic featuring the X-Men.

No matter what storyline or cover art piqued my interest, a man named Stan Lee was always behind these entrancing characters’ worlds.

Born on Dec. 28, 1922, in New York City, Lee began his career refilling inkwells for comic book artists. From here, he would slowly rise in rank to become the creative leader of Marvel Comics for over two decades. Lee is credited with creating some of comic book mythos’ most legendary and



PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

influential characters — including Spider-Man, the X-Men, Iron Man and the Incredible Hulk, to name just a few.

Before creating these iconic

heroes, there was time where Lee thought about quitting comics altogether. Following advice from his wife Joan, he began to write characters with flawed character

traits. It was a radical shift in tone at the time, as most heroes were portrayed as being free of imperfections.

Lee’s ability to add humanity

to his characters allowed readers to relate to the stories in a new and complex way. This element of Lee’s writing led him to establish some of the most developed and engaging stories that comic books have ever seen.

Though I was not alive to see Lee’s growth from a prosaic ink-filler to the industry’s creative leader, I have always known Lee as a loved and revered pop culture icon. From his laughable cameos in his Marvel movies to his TV series highlighting the superhuman nature of human beings, Lee has always been around to show us something interesting, something new and something bold.

That is why it was so saddening to hear of Lee’s death earlier this week on Nov. 12. He leaves behind the biggest legacy one could aspire to have. The characters he created have become universal role models for all of us to learn from.

Through print comics, television programs and, more famously, the Marvel cinematic universe, Lee’s impact on the world will continue. He was someone who was infinitely passionate about spreading joy through his art and someone I will always look up to.

Though Lee has left this universe behind, his superhuman spirit for the abnormal and extraordinary never will. Excelsior!



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Rebels face No. 1 Stanford in College Cup second round

FLINT CHRISTIAN
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The Ole Miss women's soccer team will face off against the No. 1 Stanford Cardinal in the second round of the Women's College Cup on Friday in Palo Alto, California. The game will be the first ever meeting on the pitch between the two schools.

The Rebels (13-7-1) are coming off a 2-1 victory over No. 25 Clemson in the first round last Saturday, where they regained momentum after allowing an equalizer early in the second half. Mary Kate Smith and Grace Johnson each scored in the match, notching their second goal and first goal of the season, respectively. The duo displayed the importance of stepping up in meaningful, high-pressure moments. Hopefully the momentum will carry over to a tough showdown in Palo Alto.

"It's an exciting game for us to out and compete against the best," head coach Matt Mott said earlier in the week. "When you're at this stage, you're going to play good teams."

Stanford (18-0-2) has been nearly unstoppable this season. The Cardinal are currently on a 42-game unbeaten streak where they have outscored opponents

134-15. The streak also includes last year's National Championship. They won their opening round of the NCAA tournament 3-0 over Seattle University in their third straight season as the No. 1 overall seed. Stanford's roster also contains the Pac-12 Defender of the Year, Midfielder of the Year and Forward of the Year along with 10 All-Pac-12 players.

"I think our team really needs to go out and focus on the first 15 minutes of the game," Mott said. "So, just getting ourselves into the game and comfortable. I think if the score is zero to zero or we are up a goal in the first 15 minutes, we will be in a really good spot."

While Stanford's talent, skill, and resume might seem overwhelming, Ole Miss has the ability to pull off the upset. Their demeanor in the face of a tough draw inspires more confidence going forward, and the Rebels' performance against other talented teams this season suggests a shot to be competitive on Friday. Against the other SEC teams still playing in the NCAA tournament, the Rebels were 2-2-1 in the regular season, highlighted by a win over SEC Champion Vanderbilt in the final game of the regular season.

The Rebels will be forced



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
Grace Johnson dribbles the ball downfield, outrunning Memphis' Serena Dolan earlier this season. Ole Miss lost the game 0-2.

to lean on First Team All-SEC forward/midfielder CeCe Kizer, who led the conference with 13 goals and nine assists on the year. The senior showed she is still in excellent form with her setup and assist on the first goal of the Clemson game, and with the help of Second Team All-SEC

sophomore Channing Foster and SEC All-Freshman midfielder Haleigh Stackpole, Ole Miss will be looking to prove it can play at Stanford's elite level.

Ole Miss has averaged 2.05 goals per game and allowed an average of 1.33 goals per game this season. Stanford, on the

other hand, has notched 2.70 goals per game while only giving up 0.45 goals per game. Stanford has also averaged 23.1 shots per game and has converted 11.7 percent of those shots, while Ole Miss has averaged 14.6 shots per game and has converted an impressive 14.1 percent of them.

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COLUMN

Ole Miss seeks to end losing streak in final road test

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The Rebels’ matchup with cross-division rival Vanderbilt does not bring many headlines for either side. The moral of the story is that Ole Miss is trying to collect wins at the end of the season. Dashed bowl game hopes have removed any pressure for the Rebels to reach six wins, but the importance of this game lies in Ole Miss’ need to end the three-game losing skid that has taken the team from 5-2 to 5-5.

With less than two weeks remaining in the regular season, Ole Miss football has become exactly what everyone thought they would be this year — an offense loaded with talent that runs an up-tempo style and struggles to score against top-tier challengers and a defense that, no matter what logo is on the helmet of the opponent, will likely allow 500 yards. Very rarely, if at all, has good defense aligned with good offense, resulting in the Rebels’ 5-5 record.

Coming out with a win against Vanderbilt is not guaranteed. The Commodores come into the game with a 4-6 record, needing to win its final two games to earn a bowl bid. Both teams have just one SEC win through 10 games, but to Vanderbilt’s credit, they played a close game against No. 3 Notre

Dame early in the season. “(Vanderbilt is a) tough place to play. I have a lot of respect for Coach Mason (and) what they’ve been able to do,” head coach Matt Luke said.

The Vanderbilt offense is similar to the Aggies’ in that it runs through the backfield. The star of the Commodores offense, running back Ke’Shawn Vaughn, has 849 yards rushing on the season, averaging 7.5 yards-per-carry and scoring nine touchdowns on the season. Although rarely used in the passing game, Vaughn has caught 9 passes for 145 yards and 2 touchdowns on the year.

“(Vanderbilt’s) running back is a very good player, (they have a) senior quarterback, they can get their tight ends involved in it because they’re so good in the run game,” Luke said.

If Vanderbilt relies heavily on the running game, play action passing could render the Ole Miss defense utterly useless. Vanderbilt quarterback Kyle Shurmur does not boast a stat line for the record books, but he’s efficient and perfectly capable of performing well against Ole Miss. Auburn’s Jarrett Stidham and South Carolina’s Jake Bentley were both able to turn around their down years against Ole Miss, and Shurmur could be the next in line.

“If we get a turnover, we need



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Quarterback Jordan Ta’amu avoids Auburn linebacker Deshaun Davis earlier this season. Ole Miss lost the game 16-31.

to take it and go score,” Luke said.

With Vanderbilt likely to slow down the game by keeping the Ole Miss offense on the sideline, offensive coordinator Phil Longo needs to take advantage of every scoring opportunity. Red zone inefficiency and having to settle for field goals is not the recipe for winning games when the defense gives up points the way it does.

“If we have the ball in the red zone with a chance to go up 10, we need to take care of the ball and go up 10 into halftime,” Luke said. “There’s a lot of things we

can do better to help us win these last two games.”

Jordan Ta’amu is one of the top passers in college football this season. He is second nationally in passing yards at 3,374 yards for the season, only trailing Mississippi native Gardner Minshew II at Washington State. However, Ta’amu has fewer passing attempts than Minshew has completions, clearly illustrating the big-play ability of Ta’amu and the NWO.

D.K. Metcalf’s absence in the offense has been noticeable; how-

ever, freshman Elijah Moore has stepped up to the plate. Moore averages 12 yards-per-catch, with 2 touchdowns on the season. After Braylon Sanders’ early season prominence, Moore has become the clear-cut third option in the Rebel passing game.

Ole Miss has just two games remaining, with the highly-anticipated Egg Bowl falling on Thanksgiving Day. A win over Vanderbilt will be key to building some momentum going into the matchup with Mississippi State.

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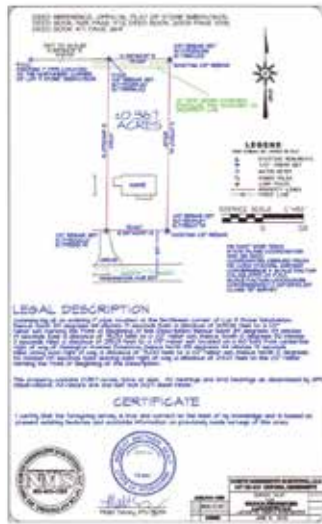
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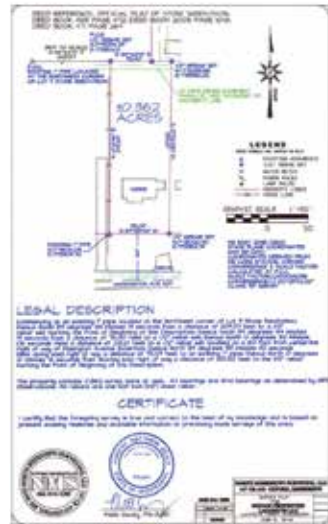
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